

which comprises an amino acid sequence indicated in either SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8 sequence protocol, or an allele or derivative thereof obtained through amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion or inversion,

and wherein the amino acid sequences obtained through amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion or inversion as an allele or derivative are suitable for influencing cell morphology, cell proliferation, cell adhesion, cell migration and/or cell differentiation.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid,

that codes a protein according to claim 1,

comprising the nucleotide sequence indicated in either SEQ ID NO:1 sequence protocol or SEQ ID NO:7 sequence protocol or a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of these two or a partial sequence of one of these two nucleotide sequences,

or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes wholly or in part with one of these aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or half-synthetic source.

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid is a cDNA.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid is a sense or antisense oligonucleotide which encompasses at least 6 nucleotides, and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:7 or partial sequences thereof.

6. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said nucleic acid is a splice variant, which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:7.

7. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is a splice variant, which comprises the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 5.

8. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence resulting from a splice variant of an mRNA, which comprises the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:7, or the nucleotide sequence complementary to one of these two, or a partial sequence of one of these nucleotide sequences, or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes wholly or in part with one of these nucleotide sequences,

wherein said peptide is upwardly adjusted in activated human epidermal keratinocytes showing an elevated expression of the activation markers uPA and uPA-R, and is suitable for influencing cell morphology, cell proliferation, cell adhesion, cell migration and/or cell differentiation.

9. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence resulting from a splice variant of an mRNA, which comprises the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:2 or sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:5.

10. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide according to claim 9, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:4 or sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:6.

11. (Amended) A recombinant DNA vector molecule, which comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 2, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

12. (Amended) The recombinant DNA vector molecule according to claim 11, wherein the vector molecule is a derivative of the plasmid pUEX-1 or plasmid pGEX-2T or plasmid pcDNA3.1.

13. (Amended) The recombinant DNA vector molecule according to claim 12, wherein the vector molecule is a construct according to the vector protocol on Fig. 2 or the vector protocol on Fig. 3.

14. (Amended) A transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid is coupled with an activatable promotor contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes.

15. (Amended) A transformed host cell according to claim 14, wherein the promotor is the cytokeratin-14 promotor and the host cell is a keratinocyte, or the promotor is the CMV promotor and the host cell is a cos cell.

16. (Amended) Use of a nucleic acid according to claim 2 for manufacturing transgenic mammals.

17. (Amended) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 for manufacturing an antibody against this polypeptide and/or proteins related thereto.

18. (Amended) Use according to claim 17, wherein the antibody is used for diagnosis or therapeutic treatment or cosmetic treatment.

19. (Amended) An antibody that reacts specifically with a polypeptide according to claim 1.

20. (Amended) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using at least one nucleic acid according to claim 2.

21. (Amended) The use of a sense or antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 5 for the diagnosis or therapeutic treatment in particular of dermatological diseases, or for cosmetic treatment.

22. (Amended) The use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide and thereby influence its function and/or expression.

Please **add** the following new claims:

23. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 5, which encompasses 8 to 25 nucleotides.

24. (New) The use of a vector molecule according to claim 11 for manufacturing transgenic mammals.

25. (New) The use of a polypeptide according to claim 8 for manufacturing an antibody.

26. (New) The use according to claim 17, wherein the antibody is used for the diagnosis or therapeutic treatment or cosmetic treatment of dermatological diseases.

27. (New) An antibody that reacts specifically with a polypeptide according to claim 8.

28. (New) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using at least one nucleic acid according to claim 5.

29. (New) The use of a sense or antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 6 for diagnosis or therapeutic treatment or cosmetic treatment of dermatological diseases.

30. (New) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using a polypeptide according to claim 1.

31. (New) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using a polypeptide according to claim 8.

32. (New) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using at least one nucleic acid according to claim 3.

33. (New) The use of a polypeptide according to claim 8 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide and thereby influence its function and/or expression. thereby influence its function and/or expression.

34. (New) The use of a nucleic acid according to claim 2 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the nucleic acid and thereby influence its function and/or expression.

35. (New) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent is manufactured using at least one polypeptide according to claim 8.